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REMARKS

The Applicant acknowledges that the election requirement is still deemed proper and thus made final. Accordingly, claims 9 and 13-17 are withdrawn from further consideration at this time.

Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejections and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

Next, claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 18 and 19 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by German Patent 29506847 (as "DE '847"). The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

Initially, with respect to the raised 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections in paragraphs 8 and 9, the Applicant notes that item 9 is a belt that goes through one of the openings 18, 18' or 18", item 14 is a pawl and item 16 is part of the pawl 14 while item 30 is a spring and item 34 is the vehicle chassis. The Applicant is unable to find reference numerals 36 or 44 on the drawing.

With respect to DE '847 in particular, the Examiner appears to have misunderstood the disclosure of that reference in which the complete buckle consists of two static plates 8 that nest a recess 28 in the seat body. The two plates 8 are secured together by a bolt 29. Only the rear plate is shown in the sole drawing of that reference. A latch plate 9 pivots on a pin 12 that extends between the two static plates 8. A pawl 14 pivots on a second pin 15 that also extends between the two static plates 8. A first end of the pawl 14 maintains the latch plate 9 in its engaged position. A rod 22 is coupled to the limb 16 (a second end) of the pawl 14, at point 17, so that by pulling on an activator 23 connected to the rod 22 and located at the top of the seat back, the latch plate 9 is released and allowed to pivot or rotate about pin 12. With respect to

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the two superimposed springs 20 and 30, the longer spring 20 acts on the pawl 14 and the shorter spring 30 acts on the latch plate 9.

As is apparent from the above discussion of DE '847, the presently claimed "rigid link" is quite different in structure and function from the limb/pawl of the applied art. In particular, the presently claimed invention recites that the rigid link is "attached to the child seat structure solely by a coupling mechanism that permits angular movement of the child seat structure relative to the rigid link about an axis located above the base support surface, and a releasable connector mounted on the rigid link for engagement with a standard anchorage unit associated with the vehicle seat." The limb/pawl of the applied art is not: (1) attached to the child seat structure solely by a coupling mechanism to permit relative angular movement between the child seat structure and the rigid link or (2) connectable with a standard anchorage unit of a vehicle seat, as presently recited. As such, the raised rejections in view of DE '847 should be withdrawn at this time.

In addition, new claim 20 is entered in this case and this claim recites the limitation of "a first end of the link is attached to the child seat structure by a coupling joint and a second opposed end of the link engages with the standard anchorage unit associated with the vehicle seat." The Applicant believes this claimed distinction further distinguishes the presently claimed invention from the limb/pawl of the applied art.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if appropriately amended to overcome the raised rejection(s). In accordance with this indication, rejected claim 4 is appropriately revised to be an independent claim and this amended claim is now believed to be allowable. As claim 5 depends directly on allowable claim 4, the Applicant asserts that claim 5 is also now in condition for allowance.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

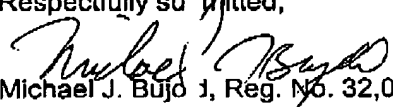
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejections should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejections or applicability of the DE '847 reference, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on: March 12, 2003



Michael J. Bujold